

Warrenpoint (William Branson House,
Templin House)
.2 mile south of State Route 23 (Ridge Road)
on small road, approximately 1 mile west of
Knauertown
Knauertown Vicinity (Warwick Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-115

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-115

WARRENPOINT

(William Branson House, Templin House)

Location: .2 mile south of State Route 23 (Ridge Road) on small road, approximately 1 mile west of Knauertown, Knauertown Vicinity (Warwick Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Mr. Joseph N. Pew, Jr., Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

Present Use: Unoccupied.

Statement of Significance: The house is an excellent example of a mid-eighteenth century house with few alterations. The stone work is of interest and much outstanding original interior woodwork remains. The original owner, William Branson, was a leader in early iron and steel production.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1. Warrant dated Dec. 23, 1756 to Richard Templin, called "Warrenpoint."
2. Conveyed and secured to William Templin by a patent dated Jan. 14, 1802, Patent book 47, p. 81, also see Deed Bk. (Chester Co.) E3, p. 434.
3. Wm. Templin by will dated Feb. 1, 1810 and proved Sept. 14, 1810 (Will Bk. L, p338) left it to son John Templin.
4. John Templin by will dated May 24, 1856 and proved June 16, 1856 (Will Bk. U, p. 474) gave it to Lewis C. Templin.
5. Lewis C. Templin by will proved 1893 (Will Bk. 30, p. 5) left it to wife Hannah B. Templin.
6. Hannah B. Templin by will proved 1895 (Will Bk. 11, p. 467) to J. Wayne Templin.
7. J. Wayne Templin by will proved 1923 to Robert L. & Raymond C. Templin.
8. Robert L. & Raymond C. Templin in 1923 (Deed Bk. K16, p.496) to H. Graham Rambo.
9. H. Graham Rambo 1924 (Deed Bk. O16, p.1) to Truman D. Wade.
10. Truman D. Wade 1924 (Deed Bk. O16, p.3) to Charles B. Montgomery.
11. Charles B. Montgomery 1927 (Deed Bk. M17, p.106) to Joseph Newton Pew, Jr.

2. Date of erection: 1756.

3. Architect, builder, suppliers: Unknown.

4. Original plans, construction: Unknown, but structure appears to be little changed. The house consisted of a central hall with two rooms on either side plus a kitchen wing to the east.
5. Alterations and additions: Few changes are apparent. Most window sash was replaced in the nineteenth century. A three-bay entrance porch was added on the south (front) elevation in the early twentieth century. The house was restored in 1972.
6. Important old views:

There is an exterior photograph from circa 1890 in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Eleanor Raymond, Early Domestic Architecture of Pennsylvania,
New York, 1931, Plates 39-43 and 134-137.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

William Branson, the original owner, was a leader in early iron and steel production.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is an excellent example of a mid-eighteenth century house with few alterations, interesting stone work, and outstanding original interior woodwork.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 44' (five-bay front) x 33' with a kitchen wing 20' x 17' - 6" to the east; two-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Random rubble with contrasting quoins.
4. Porches: A three-bay entrance porch was added on the south front in the early twentieth century.
5. Chimneys: There are two massive inside end chimneys on the main block and one on the east end of the kitchen wing.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Probably all original.

- b. Windows and shutters: Most of the window sash was replaced in the nineteenth century. The first floor has shutters, but there were never shutters on the second floor.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Probably original; there are pent eaves across the gable ends.
- c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of the Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The first floor has a central hall with two rooms on either side plus a kitchen wing to the east. The second-floor plan is similar, but part of the hall has been converted to a bathroom. The attic is one large room.
- 2. Stairways: Original.
- 3. Flooring: Most of the flooring on the first floor has been replaced, but the original flooring remains in the rest of the house.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Probably original.
- 6. Trim: Mostly original.
- 7. Hardware: Mostly original on the second floor and attic and of the period on the first floor although not original.
- 8. Lighting: Electric.
- 9. Heating: Fireplaces and central heating.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north.
2. Enclosures: There is an outdoor cooking area and oven in a stone enclosure at the northeast corner. Only part of the enclosure remained in 1960; it was reconstructed in 1972.
3. Outbuildings: General farm buildings.
4. Walks, driveways: Long lane from highway.
5. Landscaping, gardens: None.

Prepared by Bart Anderson
Curator, Chester County
Historical Society
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